

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A transfer tape dispenser comprising:
 - a case;
 - a supply spool rotationally mounted in the case and including a supply of tape having an application layer and a carrier tape;
 - a return spool rotationally mounted in the case and adapted to collect the carrier tape;
 - a substantially rigid applicator tip pivotally mounted in the case and disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip pivoting between a rest position and at least an application position; and
 - a cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position.
2. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 1, wherein the cushion body is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position.
3. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 1, wherein the cushion body is co-molded with the applicator tip.

4. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 1, wherein the cushion body is constructed from a different material than an applicator tip material and a case material.

5. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 1, wherein the cushion body is constructed with an elastomer.

6. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 1, wherein the cushion body is independent and separate from the case and the applicator tip and disposed between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case.

7. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 1, further comprising a slip clutch adapted to slippably couple the supply spool and the return spool.

8. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 1, wherein the applicator tip includes an application edge and a plurality of guides, wherein the plurality of guides are adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

9. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 1, comprising a drive wheel rotationally mounted in the case, wherein the supply spool and the return spool are disposed on the drive wheel.

10. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 9, further comprising a slip clutch adapted to slippably couple the supply spool and

the return spool, wherein the slip clutch is adapted to slippably couple the supply spool to the drive wheel.

11. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 9, wherein the return spool is integral with the drive wheel.

12. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 9, wherein the drive wheel includes a plurality of tabs radially disposed thereon and adapted to engage a plurality of detents radially disposed on an interior of the case to prevent the wheel from rotating in a non-dispensing direction.

13. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 9, wherein the slip clutch includes a plurality of arcuate shoes coupled to a hub projecting from the wheel, and wherein the plurality of arcuate shoes frictionally engage an internal periphery of the supply spool.

14. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 13, wherein each arcuate shoe includes ridges projecting from an outer surface thereof, and wherein the ridges frictionally engage the internal periphery of the supply spool.

15. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 1, wherein the case includes at least a tape post adapted to guide the tape from the supply spool to the applicator tip and from the applicator tip to the return spool.

16. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 1, wherein an exterior of the case includes a plurality of grip pads.

17. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 1, further comprising an applicator tip protector pivotally attached to an exterior of the case and adapted to pivot between an open position wherein the applicator tip is uncovered and a closed position wherein the applicator tip is covered.

18. A transfer tape dispenser comprising:

- a case;
- a drive wheel rotatably mounted in the case and including a supply side and a return side;
- a supply spool rotationally mounted on the supply side of the wheel and including a supply of tape having an application layer and a carrier tape;
- a return spool disposed on the return side of the wheel and adapted to collect the carrier tape;
- a substantially rigid applicator tip pivotally mounted in the case, the applicator tip disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip adapted to pivot relative to the case between a rest position and at least an application position;
- a cushion body disposed in the case between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case, wherein the pivoting of

the applicator tip to the application position is resiliently opposed by the cushion body; and

a slip clutch having a plurality of projections attached to the supply side of the drive wheel, the projections adapted to transfer rotation of the drive wheel to the supply spool and to provide slippable rotation of the supply spool relative to the rotation of the return spool.

19. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the cushion body is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position.

20. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the cushion body is co-molded with the applicator tip.

21. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 17, wherein the cushion body is constructed from a different material than an applicator tip material and a case material.

22. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the applicator tip includes an application edge and a plurality of guides, the plurality of guides adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

23. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the return spool is integral with the drive wheel.

24. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the drive wheel includes a plurality of tabs radially disposed thereon and adapted to engage a plurality of detents radially disposed on an interior of the case to prevent the wheel from rotating in a non-dispensing direction.

25. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the case includes at least one tape post adapted to guide the tape from the supply spool to the applicator tip and from the applicator tip to the return spool.

26. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the cushion body is constructed with an elastomer.

27. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the cushion body is independent and separate from the case and the applicator tip.

28. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 18, wherein an exterior of the case includes a plurality of grip pads.

29. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 18, further comprising an applicator tip protector pivotally attached to an exterior of the case and adapted to pivot between an open position wherein the applicator tip is uncovered to a closed position wherein the applicator tip is covered.

30. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the applicator tip includes an application edge and a plurality of guides, wherein the plurality of guides are adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

31. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 18, further comprising an applicator tip protector pivotally attached to an exterior of the case and adapted to pivot between an open position wherein the applicator tip is uncovered and a closed position wherein the applicator tip is covered.

32. A transfer tape dispenser comprising:
a case;
a supply spool rotatably mounted in the case and including a supply of transfer tape having an application layer and a carrier tape;

a substantially rigid applicator tip pivotally mounted in the case and including an application edge; and

a return spool rotatably mounted in the case and slippably coupled to the supply spool;

a cushion body disposed in the case between an interior surface of the case and the applicator tip;

wherein pressing the application edge on a surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes rotation of the supply spool to thereby supply transfer tape to the application edge;

wherein pressing the application edge on the surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes the application layer of the transfer tape to adhere to the surface;

wherein pressing the application edge on the surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes the return spool to rotate to thereby collect the carrier tape on the return spool;

wherein the pressing of the application edge on the surface causes the applicator tip to pivot relative to the case from a rest position to at least an application position against the discrete cushion body disposed in the case between an interior surface of the case and the applicator tip, and wherein the cushion body resiliently opposes the pivoting of the applicator tip to the application position.

33. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 32, wherein the cushion body is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position.

34. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 32, wherein the cushion body is co-molded with the applicator tip.

35. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 32, wherein the cushion body is constructed from a different material than an applicator tip material and a case material.

36. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 32, wherein the cushion body is constructed as a one-piece elastomer body.

37. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 32 wherein the cushion body is independent and separate from the case and the applicator tip.

38. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 32, wherein the applicator tip includes a plurality of guides, the plurality of guides adapted to guide the transfer tape to and from the application edge.

39. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 32, comprising a drive wheel rotationally mounted in the case, wherein the supply spool and the return spool are disposed on the drive wheel.

40. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 39, comprising a slip clutch having a plurality of projections attached to the drive wheel, the projections adapted to slippably transfer rotation of the drive wheel to the supply spool.

41. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 39, wherein the return spool is an integral part of the drive wheel.

42. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 39, wherein the drive wheel includes a plurality of tabs radially disposed thereon and adapted to engage a plurality of detents radially disposed on

an interior of the case to prevent the drive wheel from rotating in a non-dispensing direction.

43. A transfer tape dispenser according to claim 32, further comprising an applicator tip protector pivotally attached to an exterior of the case and adapted to pivot between an open position wherein the applicator tip is uncovered to a closed position wherein the applicator tip is covered.